## United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

# Categorical Exclusion for Colorado Mesa University Mountain Bike Race

Grand Junction Field Office 2815 H Road Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

DOI-BLM-CO-130-2014-0022-CX

September 2014



### **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

Ute PM, T 1 S, R 1 W, Sections 28, 29, 32, 33. Mesa County

Both the cross-country and downhill courses are located within the Lunch Loop Trail System between Monument Road and Little Park Road approximately two miles southwest of downtown Grand Junction.

Course maps are included below.

APPLICANT: Colorado Mesa University

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) has requested a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) authorizing a one day mountain bike race to be held in the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in October of 2014. CMU was authorized for the same event in 2013; A SRP was issued however the event was canceled due to the government shutdown.

This Categorical Exclusion considers whether to issue an SRP for this proposed event. The BLM issues SRPs to achieve recreation and other resource management objectives. SRPs are issued for commercial, competitive, and certain organized group activities on BLM public lands to enhance the public's opportunity for recreation experiences on BLM lands. These permits include conditions of use (stipulations) that ensure that the permitted recreation use meets BLM's goals of providing opportunities for recreation experiences, and ensure that the use is consistent with other resource management objectives, for example wildlife, range, endangered species, cultural resources, etc. SRPs also ensure that the public receives a fair-value return for commercial activities that take place on BLM public lands by charging fees for permitted activities.

The proposed event would provide an opportunity for collegiate cyclists and other mountain bikers of various abilities to compete in an organized race that exposes participants and spectators to the unique trails and landscapes of the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area. The event would also support the partnership between CMU and the Grand Valley community, including the BLM. By utilizing a marked and marshaled course on the area's designated trail network, impacts to other users and resources would be minimized. Thorough monitoring of the event would provide valuable information for evaluation of similar event proposals in the future.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

CMU has proposed using trails within the Lunch Loop Trail System (Bangs Canyon SRMA) to conduct mountain bike races on Saturday, October 11, 2014. The proposed races, the 2014 Maverick Mountain Bike Championships, would be the conference championship races for the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cycling Conference. The races would feature a "cross-country"

format course in the morning and a downhill format course in the afternoon. Races would begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Participants would include approximately 100-150 collegiate cyclists from the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cycling Conference, and up to 100 non-collegiate racers in "Open" class races. Racers in the cross-country race would be divided into different categories with start times for each category staggered at two to four minute intervals. Depending on category, cross-country racers would complete one to four laps of the course. Approximately 50 riders would participate in the downhill race, with each racer starting individually at one minute intervals and racing against the clock.

The primary staging area for the races would be at the Tabeguache Trailhead on Monument Road. This area would contain the registration tent, medical tent, portable toilets, temporary parking for rider drop-off/pick-up, and the start/finish of the cross-country course. The race organizers have secured permission from the City of Grand Junction to use adjacent City-owned property directly north of the trailhead for event parking. Event participants would be expected to park in this auxiliary parking area to avoid monopolizing trailhead parking.

The downhill race would utilize the "upper Tabeguache" pullout (aka the bus turnaround) for a limited number of race official vehicles and for racer drop-off. This pullout accesses the Lunch Line trail providing access to the downhill race course on the Free Lunch trail.

Volunteers would be stationed at all staging locations to manage parking, and to inform and direct race participants, officials, volunteers, spectators and the general public. Volunteers would also be stationed at staging areas at sunrise on the day of the event to inform the public about the event and to direct parking. Course intersections and hazards would be marked with pin flagging and/or caution tape. Course marshals would be stationed at all trail intersections along the course. Course marshals and other event staff and volunteers would remove all trash and course markings from the course immediately following the conclusion of the races. Event organizers would work with the BLM to identify appropriate spectator areas, and volunteers would direct spectators to those locations to reduce potential resource impacts.

The following wet weather contingency plan has been coordinated between CMU and the BLM to provide guidance regarding postponement or cancellation of races in the event of wet/muddy conditions:

In the event of inclement weather before or during the Maverick Mountain Bike Championships to be held on the Lunch Loop trail system, Saturday, October 11, 2014 the following precautions will be taken by event organizers:

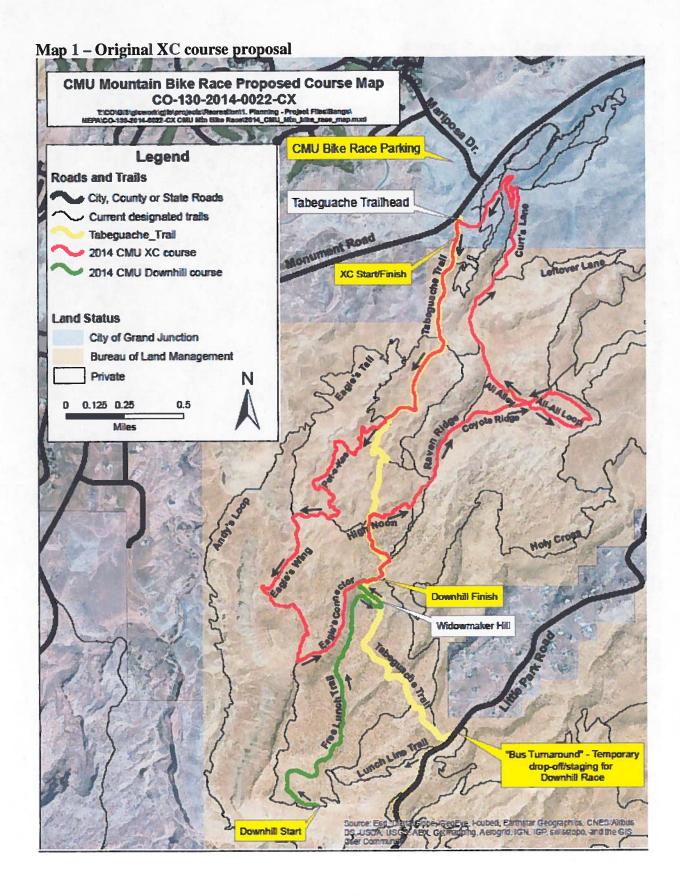
- Weather in the area up to the week before will be monitored by race organizers via the National Weather Service.
- If significant rain or snowfall occurs a number of days before the event, organizers will monitor the trails leading up to October 11 to determine whether the event should be held. If the trails are dried out and do not pose a threat of safety to the rider or damage to the trails, the event will proceed. If rider safety or trail damage may be compromised, the event will be canceled.
- Day-of-event trail conditions will be evaluated by race organizers and the BLM. We will be looking to see if mud is present, sticking to the tires and if the tires are leaving ruts

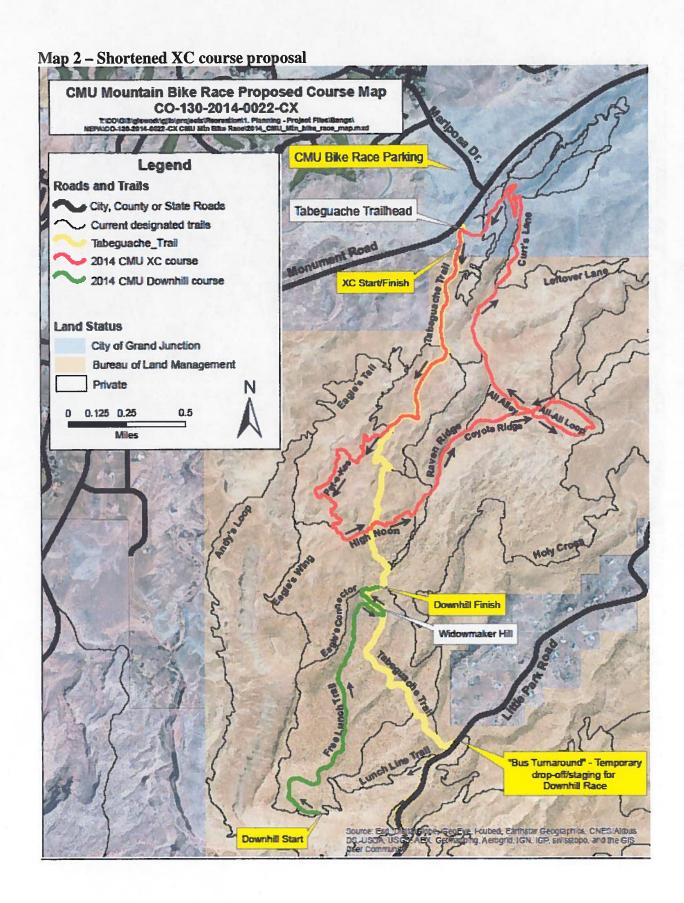
behind. Organizers and BLM staff will evaluate trail conditions using their best judgment and experience based upon the factors of safety and potential trail damage.

- If the cross-country course is deemed unrideable as permitted, organizers and BLM staff will consider altering the course to: up Tabeguache Trail, down High Noon to Raven Ridge, down Kurt's Lane. This alternate route will only be used if the proposed alternate route is suitable for riding with the given conditions.
- If the gravity course (Free Lunch to the bottom of Widow Maker Hill) is not suitable for riding, that event will be canceled. There is no alternate course.
- If it starts to rain during the event, organizers will communicate with volunteers throughout the course via radio to evaluate course conditions throughout. If it is a light or quick rain shower that is not impacting safety or damaging the trails, the race will continue.
- If the rain continues or conditions worsen, organizers can be proactive to the changing conditions and the race can be shortened and riders would be stopped after they cross the start/finish line from the time of call, as opposed to the initially planned number of laps. If necessary, the race will be stopped immediately and racers will be instructed to return to the staging area as directed by course marshals.
- We will monitor the weather and determine if it's a fast-moving storm in which case a
  delay may be appropriate. We would postpone the race for one hour and re-evaluate the
  course conditions.
- Additionally, a medical team from Western Orthopedics & Sports Medicine will be on site to assist with course assessment and evacuation if necessary.

Event organizers have requested authorization for use of an ATV or UTV to be stationed along the Tabeguache Trail for medical support/evacuation purposes.

Due to heavy late-summer rains that caused significant trail damage on portions of the course, the event organizers and BLM Recreation program staff have proposed a modification to original course proposal. The modified course would eliminate use of the Eagle's Wing/Eagle's Connector trails at the southwestern end of the original loop. Instead, racers would turn east on High Noon at the top of Pet-e-Kes, rejoining the original route at the Tabeguache Trail. This modification would shorten the length of the loop by approximately two miles. Map 1 below shows the original proposal, and Map 2 shows the modified course proposal.





## PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Grand Junction Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: JANUARY, 1987

Decision Number/Page: 2-20, 2-34

<u>Decision Language</u>: To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other public or private entities.

To protect resources, meet legal requirements for visitor health and safety, and mitigate resource user conflicts.

Designate and manage approximately 40,000 acres in the Bang's Canyon area as an intensive recreation management area... to maintain semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities, scenic and natural values, and activities such as horseback riding, hiking, and trail oriented off-road vehicle use.

Name of Plan: Bangs Canyon Management Plan

Date Approved: August 1999

Decision Number/Page: II. Management Objectives, page 5

<u>Decision Language</u>: 1. Provide semi-primitive motorized, mechanized, non-motorized recreation opportunities, scenic and natural values, and activities such as horseback riding, hiking, trail running, mountain bike riding and trail oriented OHVs (motorcycles, ATVs and jeeps).

Name of Plan: Bangs Canyon Plan Implementation (CO-130-2004-018-EA)

Date Approved: April 2006

Decision Number/Page: Page 5, number 16

<u>Decision Language</u>: Special Recreation Permit (SRP) applications will be considered pursuant to SRP policy and evaluated against user conflict, maintenance of trail condition/integrity, and ability to help meet BLM's resource and social objectives.

#### **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:**

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under (516 DM 11.9) H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: H. Recreation Management (1).

#### **EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

There are no extraordinary circumstances having effects, which may significantly affect the environment. I considered the following resource conditions in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warranted further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS (516 DM 2, Appendix 2):

Note: add all comments about resources below under the appropriate question. Do not add a remarks or analysis section.

- 1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.

  The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety because the event proponent's operation and safety plan specifies that law enforcement and EMS resources, as well as course marshals will be employed along the course to address potential public health and safety issues.
- 2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The BLM archaeologist completed a record search of the entire project area, and three Class III field inventories have covered the Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), for this project. One additional survey (ME.LM.R483), which covered approximately 0.5 segmented miles of the proposed race route, was not to standard (transects were spaced greater than 25 meters), and is considered a Class II survey. The previous inventories were conducted by the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group (ME.LM.R483), Grand River Institute (ME.LM.R659), and the BLM GJFO (ME.LM.R452 and ME.LM.R848). One monitoring report (ME.LM.R853) completed by Uncompahgre Archaeological Consultants, also overlaps with the project area. Approximately 0.25 miles on private land in the north section of the race has not been surveyed, but is on a slope greater than 30 degrees. The BLM archaeologist has walked this portion of the trail and verified there is no potential for cultural resources in the form of rock art, rock shelters, or other site types.

Five sites have been located within 15 meters of the proposed trail: one multicomponent site (5ME1158- no eligibility assessment), one prehistoric sheltered camp (5ME14287- officially needs data), one prehistoric open camp (5ME16051- officially eligible), one prehistoric open lithic scatter (5ME19807- officially not

eligible), and one historic camp (5ME14286- officially not eligible). Site 5ME1158 was first located in 1979 and was not relocated during a revisit in 2004. The original site sketch map shows the trail, but the trail did not appear to be impacting the site at the time. 5ME14287 is adjacent to the trail (approximately four meters) and was monitored as part of the Grand Junction Off Road Bike Event in 2013 (ME.LM.R853). No impacts from the trail were noted, and during the event monitors noted that bicyclists were conscientious of maintaining the current trail. Site 5ME16051 is directly adjacent to the trail, however, the trail is not impacting any features.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS: The Bangs Canyon SRMA is the only special designation affected by the proposed action. The proposed event is consistent with recreation management objectives for the SRMA.

DRINKING WATER AQUIFERS; WETLANDS, FLOODPLAINS: Use of the existing trail system for the proposed race with design features outlined in the proposed action would have no negative impacts to soils or water quality. Drinking water aquifers, wetlands and floodplains would be unaffected by use of the existing trail system.

MIGRATORY BIRDS: The proposed action occurs for a short duration outside of migratory bird nesting season on existing trails. Therefore impacts to migratory birds are not expected.

VEGETATION: If bike activity remains on existing trails and guidelines for inclement weather are followed there is little impact to vegetation.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

The event uses roads and trails that have been designated for mountain bicycle use in the Bangs Canyon Management Plan. Therefore, the environmental effects are not likely to be controversial.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Mountain bicycle races have been permitted in the Bangs Canyon SRMA on numerous occasions in the past and pose no unique or unknown risks. Mountain biking is a type of activity for which these trails are designated.

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

This decision is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by BLM responsible officials regarding issuance of Special Recreation Permits on public lands. The decision is within the scope of the Resource Management Plan and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions. The decision does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. The permit would be issued for one year only, allowing assessment to determine the

appropriateness of issuing permits in subsequent years.

6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

This is a stand-alone project. There are no projects with significant environmental impacts known to BLM that would result directly or indirectly from implementation of this project.

7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the analysis under number 2 above: As has been noted by archaeological monitors in two past bicycle events similar to the event proposed here, bicyclists in race scenarios do not dismount (unless for repairs), stay on the trail, and are generally focused entirely on completing the race course. Impacts to dry soil are minimal and passing on single-track routes is discouraged or impossible. Generally bicycle racers disperse once the race has started, as well. More impacts are probably associated with staging areas, however, staging areas for this race will be located on paved roads and gravel pull-outs. Due to the low number of participants in addition to previous bike event monitoring results, as well as planned staging areas on hardened surfaces, the BLM GJFO archaeologist believes the race event will result in no historic properties affected. The BLM finds that no additional survey or cultural resource inventory work is needed.

8. Have adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist – No listed or proposed fish or wildlife species or their critical habitat occur in the areas.

The majority of the race course was surveyed for rare plants, during the summer of 2014. No rare plants were documented during the surveys. While surveys may miss plants, and the number and presence of plants change over time, the proposed race is not anticipated to affect any known rare plant species at this time.

9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

This proposal complies with other Federal, State, or local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

The minority and low-income populations of the county are small relative to state-wide averages and such populations are dispersed throughout the county. Therefore, no minority or low-income populations would suffer disproportionately high and adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Action.

11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such the BLM recognizes that they have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. Due to project design, locations would not be placed on cultural resources sites and no tribal access to the area would be impacted. There would be no impacts to cultural resources or sacred sites due to Proposed Action design.

12. Significantly, contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.

With the event occurring on designated routes there is no concern from a weed management standpoint.

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility				
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources,				
		Native American				
		Religious Concerns				
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist	Special Status Species				
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Fisheries,				
		Special Status Species				
Chris Pipkin	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Special Designations,				
		Travel/Transportation, Visual,				
N. a. D. a. a. l.	** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	Wilderness				
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air				
Jim Dollerschell	Rangeland Mgmt Specialist	Vegetation				

## From NEPA Notification - Table 1- Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	POTENTIALLY	Mitigation	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate					ND 7/29/14	
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)					ND 7/29/14	See above
Soils					ND 7/29/14	See above
Geological/Mineral Resources					DSG 5/27/14	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Special Status Plants					ARL 7/29/14	
Special Status Wildlife					HLP 8/15/14	
Migratory Birds					HLP 8/15/14	
Other Important Wildlife Habitat		$\boxtimes$			HLP 8/15/14	
Vegetation, Forestry					JRD 5/27/14	See above.
Invasive, Non-native Species					MT 6/5/14	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones					CS 5/28/14	
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN EN	IV.				av star 44s	
Cultural or Historical		$\boxtimes$			NFC 9/8/14	
Paleontological		$\boxtimes$			DSG 5/27/14	
Tribal& American Indian Religious Concerns		$\boxtimes$			NFC 9/8/14	
Visual Resources					CPP 5/27/14	Short-term impacts on the day of the event
Social/Economic			$\boxtimes$		CPP 5/27/14	
Transportation and Access			$\boxtimes$		CPP 5/27/14	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid					AEK	

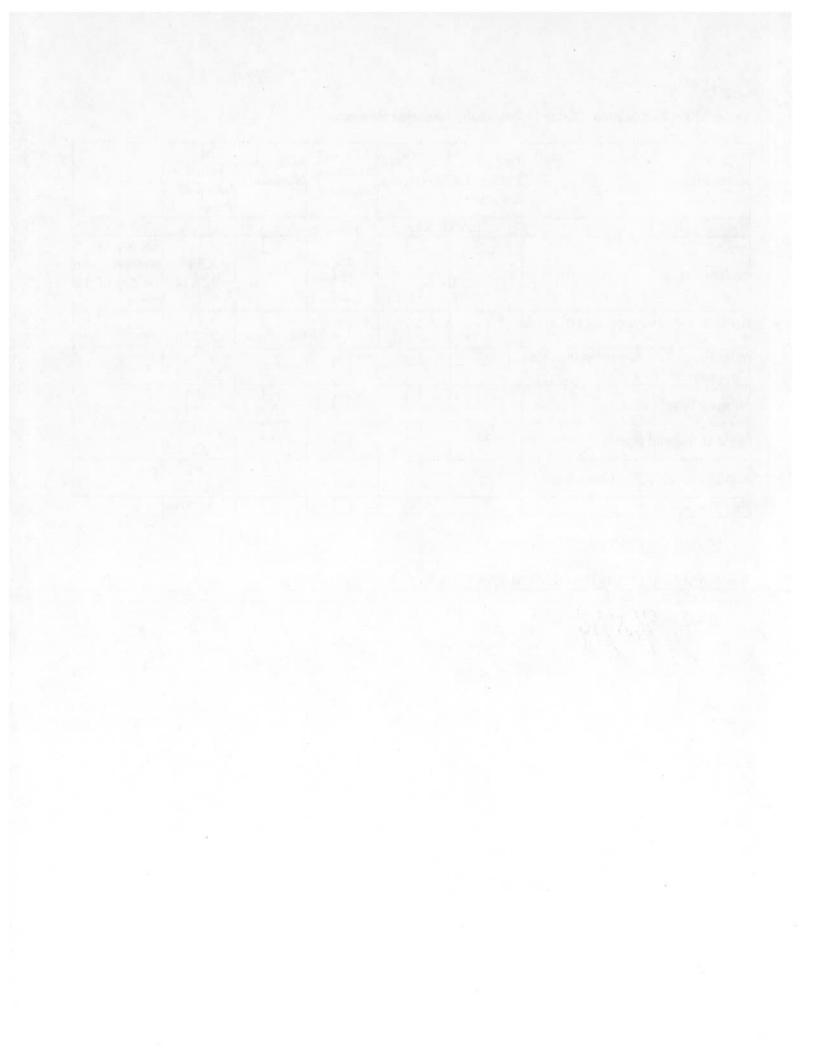
## From NEPA Notification - Table 1- Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	POTENTIALIV	Mitigation Necessary	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments	
LAND RESOURCES							
Recreation					CPP 5/27/14	Short-term impacts on the day of the event	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)					CPP 5/27/14		
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics					CPP 5/27/14		
Range Management					JRD 5/27/14		
Wild Horse and Burros					JRD 5/27/14		
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses		$\boxtimes$			RBL 6/16/14		
Fire/Fuels		$\boxtimes$			JP 5/28/14		

NAME OF PREPARER: Alex Reeves

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE:



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

## **DECISION DOCUMENT**

CMU MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE DOI-BLM-CO-130-2014-0022CX

## **DECISION:**

I have reviewed this document and have decided to implement the Colorado Mesa University Mountain Bike Race project and described above that the proposed action. This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under (516 DM 11.9) H-1790-1, Appendix 4, Number: H (1). Recreation Management (1), which says "Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan."

## **RATIONALE:**

This action is listed in the National Environmental Policy Act Handbook as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist.

The proposed event would provide an opportunity for collegiate cyclists and other mountain bikers of various abilities to compete in an organized race that exposes participants and spectators to the unique trails and landscapes of the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area. The event would also support the partnership between CMU and the Grand Valley community, including the BLM. By utilizing a marked and marshaled course on the area's designated trail network, impacts to other users and resources would be minimized. Thorough monitoring of the event would provide valuable information for evaluation of similar event proposals in the future.

Field Manager

Grand Junction Field Office

9-24-2014 Date

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Event SRP Stipulations

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## United States Department of the Interior



### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Grand Junction Field Office 2815 H Rd Grand Junction, Colorado 81506 www.co.blm.gov/gjra/gjra.html

8372 (LLCONO3000)

Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Stipulations Colorado Mesa University Cycling Team CO-130-14-017

In addition to the Standard Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations attached to this permit on file at the Grand Junction Field Office and the General Terms attached to the permit document, the following special stipulations apply to this permit. This permit is not valid without an annual operating authorization.

- All advertising for the event shall be accurate and not misrepresent in any way the services or accommodations provided, or the area authorized for use. Brochures and other advertising materials shall include the following disclosure: "All or part of this operation is conducted on Public Lands under special permit from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management."
- 2. Permittee will be responsible for posting event information including trail use times and locations in the information kiosks at the Tabeguache Trailhead and Little Park Trailhead by Friday September 26, 2014 (two weeks prior to the event.)
- 3. The permittee will conduct the event according to the Operating Plan on file with the BLM Grand Junction Field Office.
- 4. In the event of wet weather/muddy trail conditions, permittee will implement weather contingency plans (described in operations plan) in consultation with the BLM to decide if the race should be postponed or canceled.

- 5. The permittee will be responsible for managing staging areas and parking areas. Permittee is responsible to ensure no cars associated with the event are parked along Monument Road and Little Park Road during the duration of the event.
- 6. All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
- 7. Permittee will provide two portable toilets at the Tabeguache Trailhead.
- 8. Races will utilize courses identified on the operating plan map on file at the Grand Junction BLM office.
- 9. The race course will be marked clearly with one or more of the following: pin flags, barrier flagging/race tape, large coroplast signage, sponsor banners and course marshals.
- 10. The permittee is responsible for educating racers about proper trail etiquette, including passing protocol, litter management and other identified resource concerns.
- 11. Permittee will instruct racers not to pass other riders on the singletrack portions of the course unless the slower rider stops at the edge of the trail to allow the faster rider to pass. No off-trail travel is allowed.
- 12. Course marshals will be stationed, according to operating plan map, to inform the public of event times and locations, direct race participants, discourage passing on singletrack trails and provide public and participant safety.
- 13. Course will be swept immediately following the race to collect all course markings, pick up any litter left on the course and ensure all participants are off the course. All course markings must be removed within 24 hours of the completion of the event.
- 14. Permittee is responsible for containing and removing all trash/litter associated with event participants, spectators and personnel.
- 15. Any trails widened or damaged due to race will be restored to pre-race conditions by permittee within one week of completion of the race.
- 16. Post-event reports are due within 30 days following the event.

## **Standard Cultural Resource Protection Stipulations**

17. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of

law (16 USC433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh)

- 18. Inadvertent Discovery: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 USC 470s., 36 CFR800.13], as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO will determine the actions that will likely have to be completed before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).
- 19. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [25 USC 3001 et seq., 43 CFR 10.4] requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Human Remains or Objects of Cultural Patrimony occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).
- 20. The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately inventoried and has no resource concerns, and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will be allowed to resume construction.
- 21. Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups.